

The Calendar David Ewing Duncan

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The Calendar in Revolutionary France Sanja Perovic 2012-08-27 One of the most unusual decisions of the leaders of the French Revolution - and one that had immense practical as well as symbolic impact - was to abandon customarily-accepted ways of calculating date and time to create a Revolutionary calendar. The experiment lasted from 1793 to 1805, and prompted all sorts of questions about the nature of time, ways of measuring it and its relationship to individual, community, communication and creative life. This study traces the course of the Revolutionary Calendar, from its cultural origins to its decline and fall. Tracing the parallel stories of the calendar and the literary genius of its creator, Sylvain Maréchal, from the Enlightenment to the Napoleonic era, Sanja Perovic reconsiders the status of the French Revolution as the purported 'origin' of modernity, the modern experience of time, and the relationship between the imagination and political action.

Timelines of Everything DK 2018-10-30 Explore 13 billion years of history in the comfort of your own home! Journey through time and discover how some of the world's greatest events unfolded. From the Big Bang all the way through to the digital age, this incredible visual encyclopedia for children shows you just about everything that has ever happened in history. Witness history come alive as you travel through more than 130 stunning timelines. Packed with fantastic photographs and illustrations, along with informative text and fun facts. The history book covers the rise and fall of empires to ground-breaking scientific breakthroughs and inventions that changed our lives. This educational book is an imaginative way of illustrating world history for children age 8 and over. Throughout the pages, your child will get to meet the most bloodthirsty pirates of all time and discover what happened during the storming of the Bastille. It's a fantastic book for young readers with a natural curiosity about history around the world. Find your place in the world and understand where you fit in. Whether you want to discover the history of cinema, fashion, aviation, or espionage. There is something for everyone in this glorious guide through global history! The History of Everything... Ever! This fascinating reference book tells the story of a diverse range of subjects throughout history in an easily digested graphic format! After your kids dive into this book, you'll never hear them use the words "history" and "boring" in the same sentence again. Take a trip back in time! This history book covers the following eras: - Prehistory: Before 3000 BCE - The Ancient World: 3000 BCE - 500 CE - The Medieval World: 500 - 1450 - The Age of Exploration: 1450 - 1750 - The Age of Revolution: 1750 - 1914 - The Modern World: After 1914

Plants Feed Me Lizzy Rockwell 2014-01-17 Sink your teeth into the plants that feed the world—flowers, fruits, seeds, and all! With its simple text and bright, appealing illustrations, this book is perfect for young readers learning about where their food comes from. Clearly-labeled diagrams show the different parts of plants we use and eat—leaves of spinach and cabbage, the roots of carrot plants, and the wide variety of fruits, such as apples, berries, and tomatoes. Plants Feed Me explores the different types of seeds we eat—beans, nuts, rice, and even how wheat is ground into flour and used to make many other types of food. Smiling children pick fruits and vegetables, and learn how plants grow from seeds, stretching toward the sky for sun and into the earth for nutrients. This celebration of fruits, vegetables, and more is sure to get kids interested in what's on their plates!

Mapping Time Edward Graham Richards 1998 History of calendars. The Millenium - do we have the correct date? Why do we celebrate Easter Sunday when we do? Find out in this book.

Experimental Man David Ewing Duncan 2009-03-03 Bestselling author David Ewing Duncan takes the ultimate high-tech medical exam, investigating the future impact of what's hidden deep inside all of us David Ewing Duncan takes "guinea pig" journalism to the cutting edge of science, building on award-winning articles he wrote for Wired and National Geographic, in which he was tested for hundreds of chemicals and genes associated with disease, emotions, and other traits. Expanding on these tests, he examines his genes, environment, brain, and body, exploring what they reveal about his and his family's future health, traits, and ancestry, as well as the profound impact of this new self-knowledge on what it means to be human. David Ewing Duncan (San Francisco, CA) is the Chief Correspondent of public radio's Biotech Nation and a frequent commentator on NPR's Morning Edition. He is a contributing editor to Portfolio, Discover, and Wired and a columnist for Portfolio. His books include the international bestseller Calendar: Humanity's Epic Struggle to Determine a True and Accurate Year (978-0-380-79324-2). He is a former special producer and correspondent for ABC's Nightline, and appears regularly on CNN and programs such as Today and Good Morning America.

Toilet: How It Works David Macaulay 2015-04-14 A celebrated author-illustrator brings his acclaimed voice and style to a high-interest nonfiction book about the complex inner-workings of one of the most familiar objects in our lives, the toilet.

Simultaneous.

My Life as an Experiment A. J. Jacobs 2009-09-08 A collection of A.J. Jacobs's hilarious adventures as a human guinea pig, including "My Outsourced Life," "The Truth About Nakedness," and a never-before-published essay. One man. Ten extraordinary quests. Bestselling author and human guinea pig A.J. Jacobs puts his life to the test and reports on the surprising and entertaining results. He goes undercover as a woman, lives by George Washington's moral code, and impersonates a movie star. He practices "radical honesty," brushes his teeth with the world's most rational toothpaste, and outsources every part of his life to India—including reading bedtime stories to his kids. And in a new adventure, Jacobs undergoes scientific testing to determine how he can put his wife through these and other life-altering experiments—one of which involves public nudity. Filled with humor and wisdom, *My Life as an Experiment* will immerse you in eye-opening situations and change the way you think about the big issues of our time—from love and work to national politics and breakfast cereal.

Beautiful Trouble Andrew Boyd 2013-05-01 Banksy, the Yes Men, Gandhi, Starhawk: the accumulated wisdom of decades of creative protest is now in the hands of the next generation of change-makers, thanks to *Beautiful Trouble*. Sophisticated enough for veteran activists, accessible enough for newbies, this compact pocket edition of the bestselling *Beautiful Trouble* is a book that's both handy and inexpensive. Showcasing the synergies between artistic imagination and shrewd political strategy, this generously illustrated volume can easily be slipped into your pocket as you head out to the streets. This is for everyone who longs for a more beautiful, more just, more livable world – and wants to know how to get there. Includes a new introduction by the editors. Contributors include: Celia Alario • Andy Bichlbaum • Nadine Bloch • L. M. Bogad • Mike Bonnano • Andrew Boyd • Kevin Buckland • Doyle Canning • Samantha Corbin • Stephen Duncombe • Simon Enoch • Janice Fine • Lisa Fithian • Arun Gupta • Sarah Jaffe • John Jordan • Stephen Lerner • Zack Malitz • Nancy L. Mancias • Dave Oswald Mitchell • Tracey Mitchell • Mark Read • Patrick Reinsborough • Joshua Kahn Russell • Nathan Schneider • John Sellers • Matthew Skomarovsky • Jonathan Matthew Smucker • Starhawk • Eric Stoner • Harsha Walia

Calendar of the Roman Republic Agnes Kirsopp Michels 2015-12-08 This book reconstructs the pre-Julian calendar of Rome on the basis of epigraphical and literary evidence, and analyzes its relation to the solar and lunar years. Mrs. Michels shows how the varied contents of the calendar were related to the political as well as to the religious life of Rome of the first century B.C. She traces the history of the calendar back to the fifth century, indicating the stages by which a single list of festivals may have developed into the complex document of the late republic. The Roman method of intercalation, the character of the days, and the history of the *trinum nundinum* are presented in appendices. Originally published in 1967. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

Talking to Robots David Ewing Duncan 2019-07-16 Award-winning journalist David Ewing Duncan considers 24 visions of possible human-robot futures—Incredible scenarios from *Teddy Bots* to *Warrior Bots*, and *Politician Bots* to *Sex Bots*—Grounded in real technologies and possibilities and inspired by our imagination. What robot and AI systems are being built and imagined right now? What do they say about us, their creators? Will they usher in a fantastic new future, or destroy us? What do some of our greatest thinkers, from physicist Brian Greene and futurist Kevin Kelly to inventor Dean Kamen, geneticist George Church, and filmmaker Tiffany Shlain, anticipate about our human-robot future? For even as robots and A.I. intrigue us and make us anxious about the future, our fascination with robots has always been about more than the potential of the technology—it's also about what robots tell us about being human.

The Geneticist Who Played Hoops with My DNA David Ewing Duncan 2005-05-10 A narrative of the historical potential of current breakthroughs in biotechnology explores its promises for good, from cures for cancer and an end to pollution, to its possible negative consequences, from social upheavals to bio-weapons; in an analysis that also considers the implications of scientist personality on biotechnological advancement. 25,000 first printing.

Pedaling the Ends of the Earth David Duncan 1985 Recounts the adventures of four young American men who bicycled around the world, in thirteen months traveling through nineteen countries, across four continents and covering fourteen thousand miles

The Calendar David Ewing Duncan 2003-10 On Oct. 1, 1949, Mao Zedong declared that China would follow the Gregorian calendar. For the first time the entire world agreed what the date was. Here is the first complete history of the calendar, with information about science, religion, superstition & politics of many ages. Julius Caesar attempted to impose a unified calendar, but he could not calculate exactly the length of the year. His Julian calendar gained time over the true solar year, leading to calls for reform during the Middle Ages. This caused all manner of mayhem as between 10 & 13 days were removed at a stroke, & it was 500 years before Europe was in synch again. The story of the calendar's reckoning is a tale of human will, vanity, experimentation & endeavor.

The Calendar. [read by Derek Jacobi]. David Ewing Duncan 1998

The Measure of Reality Alfred W. Crosby 1996-11-28 Western Europeans were among the first, if not the first, to invent mechanical clocks, geometrically precise maps, double-entry bookkeeping, precise algebraic and musical notations, and perspective painting. By the sixteenth century more people were thinking quantitatively in western Europe than in any other part of the world. *The Measure of Reality*, first published in 1997, discusses the epochal shift from qualitative to quantitative perception in Western Europe during the late Middle Ages and Renaissance. This shift made modern science, technology, business practice and bureaucracy possible.

The Code Book Simon Singh 2003 Provides a review of cryptography, its evolution over time, and its purpose throughout

history from the era of Julius Caesar to the modern day.

Calendar: David Ewing Duncan 1999-06-01 The adventure spans the world from Stonehenge to astronomically aligned pyramids at Giza, from Mayan observatories at Chichen Itza to the atomic clock in Washington, the world's official timekeeper since the 1960s. We visit cultures from Vedic India and Cleopatra's Egypt to Byzantium and the Elizabethan court; and meet an impressive cast of historic personages from Julius Caesar to Omar Khayyam, and giants of science from Galileo and Copernicus to Stephen Hawking. Our present calendar system predates the invention of the telescope, the mechanical clock, and the concept of zero and its development is one of the great untold stories of science and history. How did Pope Gregory set right a calendar which was in error by at least ten lull days? What did time mean to a farmer on the Rhine in 800 A.D.? What was daily life like in the Middle Ages, when the general population reckoned births and marriages by seasons, wars, kings' reigns, and saints' days? In short, how did the world The adventure spans the world from Stonehenge to astronomically aligned pyramids at Giza, from Mayan observatories at Chichen Itza to the atomic clock in Washington, the world's official timekeeper since the 1960s. We visit cultures from Vedic India and Cleopatra's Egypt to Byzantium and the Elizabethan court; and meet an impressive cast of historic personages from Julius Caesar to Omar Khayyam, and giants of science from Galileo and Copernicus to Stephen Hawking. Our present calendar system predates the invention of the telescope, the mechanical clock, and the concept of zero and its development is one of the great untold stories of science and history. How did Pope Gregory set right a calendar which was in error by at least ten lull days? What did time mean to a farmer on the Rhine in 800 A.D.? What was daily life like in the Middle Ages, when the general population reckoned births and marriages by seasons, wars, kings' reigns, and saints' days?

Drop Dead Healthy A. J. Jacobs 2012-04-10 From the bestselling author of *The Year of Living Biblically* and *The Know-It-All* comes the true and truly hilarious story of one person's quest to become the healthiest man in the world. Hospitalized with a freak case of tropical pneumonia, goaded by his wife telling him, "I don't want to be a widow at forty-five," and ashamed of a middle-aged body best described as "a python that swallowed a goat," A.J. Jacobs felt compelled to change his ways and get healthy. And he didn't want only to lose weight, or finish a triathlon, or lower his cholesterol. His ambitions were far greater: maximal health from head to toe. The task was epic. He consulted an army of experts—sleep consultants and sex clinicians, nutritionists and dermatologists. He subjected himself to dozens of different workouts—from Strollercize classes to Finger Fitness sessions, from bouldering with cavemen to a treadmill desk. And he took in a cartload of diets: raw foods, veganism, high protein, calorie restriction, extreme chewing, and dozens more. He bought gadgets and helmets, earphones and juicers. He poked and he pinched. He counted and he measured. The story of his transformation is not only brilliantly entertaining, but it just may be the healthiest book ever written. It will make you laugh until your sides split and endorphins flood your bloodstream. It will alter the contours of your brain, imprinting you with better habits of hygiene and diet. It will move you emotionally and get you moving physically in surprising ways. And it will give you occasion to reflect on the body's many mysteries and the ultimate pursuit of health: a well-lived life.

About Time: A History of Civilization in Twelve Clocks David Rooney 2021-08-17 One of *Smithsonian Magazine's* Ten Best History Books of 2021 A captivating, surprising history of timekeeping and how it has shaped our world. For thousands of years, people of all cultures have made and used clocks, from the city sundials of ancient Rome to the medieval water clocks of imperial China, hourglasses fomenting revolution in the Middle Ages, the Stock Exchange clock of Amsterdam in 1611, Enlightenment observatories in India, and the high-precision clocks circling the Earth on a fleet of GPS satellites that have been launched since 1978. Clocks have helped us navigate the world and build empires, and have even taken us to the brink of destruction. Elites have used them to wield power, make money, govern citizens, and control lives—and sometimes the people have used them to fight back. Through the stories of twelve clocks, *About Time* brings pivotal moments from the past vividly to life. Historian and lifelong clock enthusiast David Rooney takes us from the unveiling of al-Jazari's castle clock in 1206, in present-day Turkey; to the Cape of Good Hope observatory at the southern tip of Africa, where nineteenth-century British government astronomers moved the gears of empire with a time ball and a gun; to the burial of a plutonium clock now sealed beneath a public park in Osaka, where it will keep time for 5,000 years. Rooney shows, through these artifacts, how time has been imagined, politicized, and weaponized over the centuries—and how it might bring peace. Ultimately, he writes, the technical history of horology is only the start of the story. A history of clocks is a history of civilization.

The Book of Chilam Balam of Chumayel Ralph Loveland Roys 1934

Hernando de Soto David Ewing Duncan 1997 "An admirable tour de force that will need to be consulted by future biographers of the Spanish conqueror. Impeccable scholarship and documentation"--*Handbook of Latin American Studies*, v. 58.

The New Darwin J. Craig Venter 2020-04-02

Marking Time Duncan Steel 2000-12-25 "If you lie awake worrying about the overnight transition from December 31, 1 b.c., to January 1, a.d. 1 (there is no year zero), then you will enjoy Duncan Steel's *Marking Time*."--*American Scientist* "No book could serve as a better guide to the cumulative invention that defines the imaginary threshold to the new millennium."--*Booklist* A Fascinating March through History and the Evolution of the Modern-Day Calendar . . . In this vivid, fast-moving narrative, you'll discover the surprising story of how our modern calendar came about and how it has changed dramatically through the years. Acclaimed author Duncan Steel explores each major step in creating the current calendar along with the many different systems for defining the number of days in a week, the length of a month, and the number of days in a year. From the definition of the lunar month by Meton of Athens in 432 b.c. to the roles played by Julius Caesar, William the Conqueror, and Isaac Newton to present-day proposals to reform our calendar, this entertaining read also presents "timely" tidbits that will take you across the full span of recorded history. Find out how and why comets have been used as clocks, why there is no year zero between 1 b.c. and a.d. 1, and why for centuries Britain

and its colonies rang in the New Year on March 25th. Marking Time will leave you with a sense of awe at the haphazard nature of our calendar's development. Once you've read this eye-opening book, you'll never look at the calendar the same way again.

Go.AI (Geopolitics of Artificial Intelligence) Abishur Prakash 2018-10 In July, 2018, one of the biggest developments since World War II took place: China revealed that it was developing artificial intelligence (AI) to create foreign policy. Think about that for a second. In the future, if the world wants to understand what China will do on the world stage, it will have to understand how China's AI thinks. What China is doing is one part of a much bigger picture. All over the world, countries are deploying AI in powerful ways. In Russia, AI is detecting social unrest. In Japan, AI is helping police predict crime. In the United Arab Emirates, AI is deciding who can enter the country. As countries deploy AI, it could change how the world operates. As AI enters the picture, the balance of power around the world could change. AI could lead to the next alliances or the next conflicts. From the mind of Abishur Prakash, the world's leading geopolitical futurist and author of *Next Geopolitics: Volume One and Two*, comes the first book to examine how AI could transform geopolitics. Building on more than 6 months of research, this book paints 12 groundbreaking scenarios of how AI could take geopolitics in a new direction. By looking at areas like ethics, trade and bias, this book goes where no other professor, pundit or publication has gone before. This book will guide leaders, visionaries, investors and policy makers through a world of geopolitics that has no precedent, where for the first time, countries will compete and clash over a technology that everyone wants but nobody fully understands.

The Heart of Philosophy Jacob Needleman 2003-08-25 Philosophy as it is frequently taught in classrooms bears little relation to the impassioned and immensely practical search for self-knowledge conducted by not only its ancient avatars but also by men and woman who seek after truth today. In *The Heart of the Philosophy*, Jacob Needleman provides a "user's guide" for those who would take philosophy seriously enough to understand its life-transforming qualities.

The Secret Lives of Earth's Smallest Creatures J. Craig Venter 2023-04-20 Dr Venter is best known for co-sequencing the first ever human genome. He later stunned the scientific world again by building from scratch the entire genome of an organism - *Mycoplasma mycoides*. His ambition is to 'try to catalogue all the genes on the planet'. He's currently working on the first major exploration of the microbiome of the planet. These microbes include bacteria, fungi, algae, and protozoa. The book will cover a series of expeditions made over the last sixteen years on the 100-foot yacht *Sorcerer II*, travelling over 75,000 miles, from Antarctica to Alaska, the Amazon Basin to the Black Sea, and the Golden Horn to volcanic vents near the Galapagos, with the aim of hunting down and identifying trillions of micro-organisms, fewer than one per cent of which had been studied before Dr Venter began this work in 2002. His work has already transformed the science of microbiology. *The Secret Life of Earth's Smallest Creatures* is a tale of adventure on the high seas, of international political intrigue, as well as a fresh, urgent look at how humans are impacting the careful balance of the bacteria that supports all life as we know it.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum Boston, Mass. Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum 1995-01-01 "This book takes you through the collection gallery by gallery, illuminating the art and installations in each room"--From preface.

The Line of Beauty Alan Hollinghurst 2008-12-17 Winner of the 2004 Man Booker Prize and a finalist for the Lambda Literary Award and the NBCC award. From Alan Hollinghurst, the acclaimed author of *The Sparsholt Affair*, *The Line of Beauty* is a sweeping novel about class, sex, and money during four extraordinary years of change and tragedy. In the summer of 1983, twenty-year-old Nick Guest moves into an attic room in the Notting Hill home of the Feddens: conservative Member of Parliament Gerald, his wealthy wife Rachel, and their two children, Toby-whom Nick had idolized at Oxford-and Catherine, who is highly critical of her family's assumptions and ambitions. As the boom years of the eighties unfold, Nick, an innocent in the world of politics and money, finds his life altered by the rising fortunes of this glamorous family. His two vividly contrasting love affairs, one with a young black clerk and one with a Lebanese millionaire, dramatize the dangers and rewards of his own private pursuit of beauty, a pursuit as compelling to Nick as the desire for power and riches among his friends. Richly textured, emotionally charged, disarmingly comic, this is a major work by one of our finest writers.

The Tiger in the House Carl Van Vechten 1921

A Philosopher on Wall Street David Ewing Duncan 2021-09-14 An astonishing tale of Wall Street and the explosion of new life-science technologies and other industries of the future as told by one of the most creative dealmakers of the past 60 years. When Fred Frank arrived on Wall Street in 1958, he became a key member of a small, whip-smart cadre of young financiers who began challenging the stodgy, risk-averse scions of old-world investment banking. He also became the first banker to specialize in biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and health care services. Frank's perpetual search for the new--pioneering technologies and innovative business models--has transformed our world. *A Philosopher on Wall Street* is an intriguing tale of * a man who was a force of verve and ingenuity on Wall Street, who built and nurtured new industries that have impacted everyone; * Wall Street and its history since the late 1950s, the surprisingly fascinating story of how high technology in America was capitalized, and the formation and meteoric rise of the pharma and biotech industries; * the best and worst of Wall Street over the past sixty years, and thoughts about the future of how to fund innovation to benefit both people and the bottom line * colorful stories from top innovators, scientists, executives, and investors about deals, intrigue, genius, booms and busts. ?This is the story of one of the most creative dealmakers of the past sixty years, a master artist of finance whose erudition and grace helped shape our world, who has always believed that inspired science, entrepreneurship, and investing are the keys to a better future.

Time in Early Modern Islam Stephen P. Blake 2013-02-11 The prophet Muhammad and the early Islamic community radically redefined the concept of time that they had inherited from earlier religions' beliefs and practices. This new temporal system, based on a lunar calendar and era, was complex and required sophistication and accuracy. From the ninth to the sixteenth centuries, it was the Muslim astronomers of the Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal empires who were

responsible for the major advances in mathematics, astronomy and astrology. This fascinating study compares the Islamic concept of time, and its historical and cultural significance, across these three great empires. Each empire, while mindful of earlier models, created a new temporal system, fashioning a new solar calendar and era and a new round of rituals and ceremonies from the cultural resources at hand. This book contributes to our understanding of the Muslim temporal system and our appreciation of the influence of Islamic science on the Western world.

The Dragons of Eden Carl Sagan 1977 The well-known astronomer and astrobiologist surveys current knowledge of the development of intelligence on Earth in various forms of life and explains his persuasion that intelligence must have developed along similar lines throughout the universe

The Geneticist Who Played Hoops with My DNA David Ewing Duncan 2005 Combining myth, biography, and wit, this is a highly original depiction of cutting-edge science and its profound implications told through the scientists who are rewriting life on earth.

Masterminds David Ewing Duncan 2009-10-06 James Watson, J. Craig Venter, Francis Collins, Cynthia Kenyon . . . you may not know them, but you should. They are the masterminds of genetics and biotechnology who want you to live to be 150 years old, to regenerate your heart and brain, to create synthetic life. For better or worse, they are about to alter life on earth forever. Award-winning journalist David Ewing Duncan tells the remarkable stories of cutting-edge bioscientists, revealing their quirky, uniquely fascinating, sometimes vaguely unsettling personas as a means to understand their science and the astonishing implications of their work. This book seamlessly combines myth, biography, scholarship, and wit that poses the all-important question: Can we actually trust these masterminds?

The Quest for Artificial Intelligence Nils J. Nilsson 2009-10-30 Artificial intelligence (AI) is a field within computer science that is attempting to build enhanced intelligence into computer systems. This book traces the history of the subject, from the early dreams of eighteenth-century (and earlier) pioneers to the more successful work of today's AI engineers. AI is becoming more and more a part of everyone's life. The technology is already embedded in face-recognizing cameras, speech-recognition software, Internet search engines, and health-care robots, among other applications. The book's many diagrams and easy-to-understand descriptions of AI programs will help the casual reader gain an understanding of how these and other AI systems actually work. Its thorough (but unobtrusive) end-of-chapter notes containing citations to important source materials will be of great use to AI scholars and researchers. This book promises to be the definitive history of a field that has captivated the imaginations of scientists, philosophers, and writers for centuries.

From Cape to Cairo David Ewing Duncan 1989 The narrative of a young man's trek by bicycle up the length of Africa from Cape Town to Cairo.

Talking to Robots David Ewing Duncan 2019-07-16 What robot and AI systems are being built and imagined right now? What do they say about us, their creators? Will they usher in a fantastic new future, or destroy us? What do some of our greatest thinkers, from physicist Brian Greene and futurist Kevin Kelly to inventor Dean Kamen, geneticist George Church, and filmmaker Tiffany Shlain, anticipate for our human-robot future? For even as robots and AI intrigue us and make us anxious about the future, our fascination with robots has always been about more than the potential of the technology - it's also about what robots tell us about being human. From present-day Facebook and Amazon bots to near-future 'intimacy' bots and 'the robot that stole my job' bots, bestselling American popular science writer David Ewing Duncan's *Talking to Robots* is a wonderfully entertaining and insightful guide to possible future scenarios about robots, both real and imagined. These scenarios are informed by interviews with actual engineers, scientists, artists, philosophers, futurists and others, who share with us their ideas, hopes and fears about robots. In the future, we will all remember when the robots truly arrived. Perhaps a robot surgeon saved your child's life, or maybe your inaugural robot moment will be more banal, when you realised with relief that the machines had taken over all the tasks you used to hate - taking out the rubbish, changing nappies, paying bills . . . Perhaps your recollection will be less benign, a memory of when a robot turned against you: the robot that threatened to seize your assets over a tax dispute. You might also remember when the robots began campaigning for equal rights with humans, and for an end to robot slavery, abuse and exploitation. Or when robots became so smart that they became our benign overlords, treating us like cute and not very bright pets. Or when the robots grew tired of us and decided to destroy us, turning our own robo-powered weapons of mass destruction against us. Further into the future we will remember when robots became organic, created in a lab from living tissue to look and be just like us, only better and more resilient. Even further in the future, we will recall when we first had the option of becoming robots ourselves, by downloading our minds into organic-engineered beings that could theoretically live forever. And yet . . . will we feel that something is missing as the millennia pass? Will we grow weary of being robots, invulnerable and immortal? Mostly we love our technology as it whisks us across and over continents and oceans at 35,000 feet, or summons us rides in someone else's Prius or connects us online to long-lost friends. Yet deep down, many of us fear that a robo-Apocalypse is all too possible. We seem obsessed with robots, as we embrace contrasting visions of robo-utopia and robo-dystopia that titillate, bring hope and scare the hell out of us.

The Calendar David Ewing Duncan 1998 Measuring the daily and yearly cycle of the cosmos has never been entirely straightforward. The year 2000 is alternatively the year 2544 (Buddhist), 6236 (Ancient Egyptian), 5761 (Jewish) or simply the Year of the Dragon (Chinese). The story of the creation of the Western calendar, which is related in this book, is a story of emperors and popes, mathematicians and monks, and the growth of scientific calculation to the point where, bizarrely, our measurement of time by atomic pulses is now more accurate than time itself: the Earth is an elderly lady and slightly eccentric - she loses half a second a century. Days have been invented (Julius Caesar needed an extra 80 days in 46BC), lost (Pope Gregory XIII ditched ten days in 1582) and moved (because Julius Caesar had 31 in his month, Augustus determined that he should have the same, so he pinched one from February).

Calendars in Antiquity Sacha Stern 2012-09-06 Calendars were at the heart of ancient culture and society and were far more than just technical, time-keeping devices. *Calendars in Antiquity* offers a comprehensive study of the calendars of

the ancient Mediterranean and Near Eastern world, from the origins up to and including Jewish and Christian calendars in late Antiquity.

Masterminds David Ewing Duncan 2009-10-06 James Watson, J. Craig Venter, Francis Collins, Cynthia Kenyon . . . you may not know them, but you should. They are the masterminds of genetics and biotechnology who want you to live to be 150 years old, to regenerate your heart and brain, to create synthetic life. For better or worse, they are about to alter life on earth forever. Award-winning journalist David Ewing Duncan tells the remarkable stories of cutting-edge bioscientists, revealing their quirky, uniquely fascinating, sometimes vaguely unsettling personas as a means to understand their science and the astonishing implications of their work. This book seamlessly combines myth, biography, scholarship, and wit that poses the all-important question: Can we actually trust these masterminds?